MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BOB GILBERT**, on February 16, 1993, at 8:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Gilbert, Chair (R) Rep. Mike Foster, Vice Chair (R) Rep. Dan Harrington, Minority Vice Chair (D) Rep. Shiell Anderson (R) Rep. John Bohlinger (R) Rep. Ed Dolezal (D) Rep. Jerry Driscoll (D) Rep. Jim Elliott (D) Rep. Gary Feland (R) Rep. Marian Hanson (R) Rep. Hal Harper (D) Rep. Chase Hibbard (R) Rep. Vern Keller (R) Rep. Ed McCaffree (D) Rep. Bea McCarthy (D) Rep. Tom Nelson (R) Rep. Scott Orr (R) Rep. Bob Raney (D) Rep. Bob Ream (D) Rep. Rolph Tunby (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Chase Hibbard

Members Absent: None

- **Staff Present:** Lee Heiman, Legislative Council Jill Rohyans, Committee Secretary Louise Sullivan, Transcriber
- **Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary: Hearing: HB 519, HB 523, HB 539, HB 557, HB 616 Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 539

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. DAVE BROWN, HD 72, Butte, explained the bill based on the information contained in **EXHIBITS 1 and 2.**

Proponents' Testimony:

Bill Salisbury, Administrator, Administration Division, Department of Transportation, distributed proposed amendments. EXHIBIT 3 He also submitted his written testimony in support of HB 539. EXHIBIT 4

Donna Alexander, representing the Montana Petroleum Marketers Association, said they are the distributors and wholesalers of diesel fuel in Montana. Of the 100 members in the group, 60 are licensed distributors who are responsible for collecting and remitting the motor fuel tax to the state. She said the bill would bring the diesel fuel tax in line with gasoline and would help curb the tax evasion that is going on.

Carl Schweitzer, representing the Montana Contractors Association, said he had met with REP. BROWN in regard to his concerns with the bill. He said those concerns have been corrected and he supports the bill.

Ben Havdahl, representing the Montana Motor Carriers Association, asked to be on record in support of HB 539 and expressed the Association's appreciation to REP. BROWN and the Department of Transportation for communicating with them regarding this complicated issue.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing Statement by Sponsor:

REP. BROWN closed on HB 539.

HEARING ON HB 523

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. DICK KNOX, HD 29, Winifred, said the bill originated in the Legislative Auditor's office and if implemented will result in approximately \$2 million a year in increased revenue to the general fund starting in FY 96. The bill reallocates PILT monies e.g., federal forest reserve monies, Taylor Grazing, fish and

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HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE February 16, 1993 Page 3 of 13

wildlife, and revenue sharing monies. The largest portion, 87%, is the federal forest reserve monies. He said the bill would reallocate a portion of those funds to the schools. Those funds are currently allocated directly to the counties.

Proponents' Testimony:

Wayne Kedish, Legislative Auditor's Office, said the concept originated in a report they issued a year ago pointing out federal law allows the Legislature to decide how to distribute the forest reserve, Taylor Grazing, Bankhead Jones and refuge revenue sharing money. He said the bill basically changes the allocation so more of that money goes to schools and less to the counties. The counties will remain whole because the school funds are not deducted from the annual PILT payment. The federal PILT payment is increased to compensate, in effect, creating an increased PILT payment. He said the Auditor's office worked with the bill drafting people to make sure the bill keeps the counties whole.

Dennis Burr, representing the Montana Taxpayers' Association, stated that he understood if the state allocates money directly to schools it will increase the money allocated to counties. He said it looked like a win-win situation after the first year. The bill contains an appropriation from the general fund to the counties to make them whole, and he believed it was a reasonable thing to draw more federal money into the state.

Dave Lewis, Director, Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), said the concept surfaced in Governor Racicot's amendments to the executive budget. OBPP became aware of the audit report in November when they began work on the Governor's budget. Subsequently, as they worked on the bill, they found there would be a two-year delay before there would be any net gain; therefore, they had to make some changes to the school funding proposal in HB 471. He believes it is an excellent concept and there will be no negative impact on the counties. It just changes the way the money is collected and distributed. Mr. Lewis referred to the long and complicated fiscal note that shows a gain in the following biennium of about \$2 million.

Opponents' Testimony:

Gordon Morris, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACO), said he had worked with Mr. Kedish on the bill and wasn't sure if he was really an opponent or just more of a skeptic. He said the language on page 11, Section 10 is unclear and didn't think it gave any assurance that the money would be forthcoming. He said when they discussed the bill he had indicated there would have to be an initial up front reimbursement to keep FY 94 county budgets intact, otherwise there would be major damage. If the bill goes into effect, the counties would not be received until September, 1994. He thought this could be clarified to ensure that those allocations will be

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE February 16, 1993 Page 4 of 13

received in a timely fashion. He said his recommendation would be that there would have to be a significant state contribution in September, 1993, to avoid the January shortfall in 1994, after which everything would tend to level out. PILT is one source of revenue which comes directly from the federal government to counties calculated and based upon population and acreages. MACO is attempting to get Congress to recognize that PILT revenues have not kept pace with inflation. MACO is working with Congressman Williams to increase PILT allocations. He urged caution in terms of the significance that this money represents to counties.

Blake Wordahl, Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, Helena, said he reluctantly opposed the bill. He said, although it looks good, their fiscal analyst said it would cost the county \$200,000 over the next year because of the timing mechanism in the bill. Even though it would be a one-time cost, it still would be very difficult for the county to absorb. Mr. Lewis felt the timing of the payments had been misinterpreted by Lewis and Clark County. Mr. Wordahl said he would be happy to provide their analysis to the Committee and Mr. Lewis to find out if they were in order to determine if the timing is such that it could be rectified through technical amendments.

Noel Williams, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners, Lincoln County, Montana County Commissioners, MACO Public Lands Committee and the Commissioners Board of Directors of the Western Interstate Region, said the counties are very concerned with the potential negative impact of this bill. He said this bill significantly changes the federal revenue stream to counties This change is going to create a great deal of valid paranoia, particularly in his county which is the state's primary recipient of forest reserve funds. He said according to the figures, about 70% of the potential negative effect would be a direct impact on Lincoln County. He said if the bill guarantees a state appropriation to those counties experiencing a loss under provisions of this bill, there is no advantage. He said they didn't think they could always depend on future legislatures viewing this in the same way, and the history of reimbursement programs is not good. PILT funds are not guaranteed for infinity from the federal government. There is an annual authorization which varies from year to year. If Montana tries to increase its portion it does not automatically set up a win-win situation - it sets up a winner-loser situation, and this could cause a scramble by other states to get on the winning side. He said the County Commissioner Associations were very close to getting Congress to increase PILT monies to account for inflation, which would increase Montana's PILT money to over \$10 million. He said all counties that had contacted him were opposed to this bill.

Valley County Commissioners, Glasgow, submitted written testimony in opposition to HB 523. EXHIBIT 5

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE February 16, 1993 Page 5 of 13

Prairie County Commissioners, Terry, submitted written testimony in opposition to HB 523. EXHIBIT 6

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. ELLIOTT asked for further explanation of the revenue increase to schools and the increased PILT payments.

Mr. Kedish responded when forest reserve money comes into the state, the state distributes that to local governments and, by state law, two-thirds of that is required to go the county road department which is then subtracted from the PILT payment. The other one-third goes to schools and, because of federal law, that one-third does not have to be subtracted from the annual PILT payment. The federal government has said the amount of money in the various funds, i.e., Taylor Grazing, Bankhead Jones, etc., which the counties control, have to be subtracted. This bill basically changes that allocation so the county has discretion over only 25% of those forest reserve monies. Therefore, the revenue going to schools would not be subtracted from the PILT payment as it is discretionary money.

REP. ELLIOTT how much money the discretionary portion represents.

Mr. Kedish responded in FY 91 it was approximately \$7.5 million, about \$5 million to the county road fund, about \$2.3 to schools. There's a limit to the amount of PILT. He said you can only subtract the amount of those payments up to the ceiling. That is the reason this bill puts \$3.6 million in schools and about half of that, even after the two-year start up period, would have to be reimbursed to counties because PILT wouldn't make that up. Mr. Kedish said about half of the money going to schools would have to be reimbursed to counties, as the bill is written, and the other half would be made up by increased PILT payments.

REP. McCAFFREE said some counties had indicated they would have a cash flow problem.

Mr. Kedish said that was not the intention in drafting the bill. There is appropriation language in the bill which allows the State Treasurer to reimburse the counties the amount of the shortfall from the general fund. There may need to be some work on the reimbursement dates, but the intention was to draft the bill so that the counties would not have a shortfall.

REP. HARPER asked **Mr. Kedish** if the federal government might not readjust the payments if it sees states trying to use this loophole. He wondered if the state would be left in the lurch, since it will be two years before the state would realize any extra money.

Mr. Kedish said it was possible. He said we are already allocating some of this money to schools and it is not being deducted.

REP. REAM said it would be helpful to have a flow chart showing current law and the proposed bill.

Mr. Kedish said he would be happy to create such a chart.

REP. REAM said that several of the opponents had indicated there was a fixed pool, and if we draw more out of that pool other states will get less. He asked **Mr. Kedish** to respond to that statement.

Mr. Kedish said there is a pool because of the way Congress appropriates the money and if Montana got an increased allocation that would mean less to the other states.

Closing Statement of Sponsor:

REP. KNOX said when he agreed to carry the bill it was his intent that the counties be held harmless. He said he believes the language in Section 10 allows that mechanism to work. He also said he understands the concerns of the counties because the bill does change the process. He said they are just increasing the money that goes to schools and decreasing the amount that goes to roads. He said the Committee needs to work with **Mr. Kedish** to address the problems. He asked that the Committee pass the bill.

HEARING ON HB 557

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. ED McCAFFREE, HD 27, Forsyth, said the bill exempts the mills authorized by the County Commissioners for the Extension Service and the 4-H programs from the provisions of I-105. He said he felt strongly enough about the 4-H program in his county to carry the bill.

Proponents' Testimony:

Blake Wordahl, Lewis and Clark County Commission, said Lewis and Clark County has a very rich agricultural history and the Extension Service is a very important program in the county. But, as a County Commissioner he has to look at the money available under the restrictions of I-105, and make decisions on a variety of non-mandated programs such as 24-hour law enforcement, the D.A.R.E. program, county roads and the Extension Service. The competing demands for county funds make for tough decisions. He asked the Committee to pass the bill and remove these programs from the restrictions of I-105. He said he would like to see everything removed from the provisions of I-105 because they need the flexibility to fund county services. He stated I-105 is not good for local government, but he said he also understands the problems the Legislature is facing. Paula Grossman, President of the 4-H Leaders Council in Lewis and Clark County, spoke in support of the bill. She explained the 4-H program in Lewis and Clark County and said they cannot afford to lose the extension office.

Lowell Bartels, spoke in favor of HB 557 and said we need to protect the county extension services. The Lewis and Clark County Extension Agent has helped keep 22 handicapped individuals employed at the Farm in the Dell in Helena. A similar project is being initiated in Kalispell. He said we need these people in the communities for their leadership and help in teaching and training.

Cindy Tusler, said she was a 10-year 4-H member and spoke in support of HB 557. She said she was representing approximately 10,000 4-H members throughout the state, and without the Extension Service the 4,000 volunteer leaders wouldn't have the direction and organization they need. She said the extension office is a communication link for 4-H leaders and members.

Richard Saravalli, former supervisor at Farm in the Dell in Helena and currently Vocational Rehabilitation Services Coordinator at West Mont, spoke in support of HB 557. He said without the resources of the extension office they would not have seen the growth at the Farm project nor could they have provided the agricultural employment such as at the Farm. He urged the Committee to support the bill.

Deborah Schlessinger, representing the Montana Library Association, appeared in support of the bill and urged the committee to exempt county extension agents, libraries and the rest of local government from I-105. She said they hoped the Committee would support the bill.

Cary Grossman, Lewis and Clark County, spoke in support of the bill.

Tony Novak, rancher in Lewis and Clark County, said the MSU extension service is an important link to Montana State University when he has agricultural problems.

Barry Gilbert, **4-H member**, spoke in favor of HB 557 because it would provide the needed financing to support extension services across the state.

Andrea Pagenkopf, Interim Director of Extension at MSU, appeared in support of HB 557. She said in the last year they had three county extension offices in jeopardy and had to come up for emergency mill levies, which passed. She expressed slight concern with the wording of the bill, which she had discussed with REP. McCAFFREE. The bill requires county extension offices

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to maintain their financial contribution to the counties. She said they realize the field people are their link to counties and they do not want to weaken that. She said another Committee had cut their budget by 5% and this bill further restricts their budgeting capabilities.

Clark Pyfer, Lewis and Clark County resident, said he had been working with the extension agent on the weed problems in the county, and found Larry Hoffman to be truly cooperative and dedicated to his job. The extension agent has been using some grant monies to fund a facilitator for weed volunteers in order to impact the noxious weed problem in this part of the state. He asked the Committee to pass the bill.

Opponents' Testimony:

Gordon Morris, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACO), said MACO has consistently opposed any I-105 repealers. He said he also appeared for Linda Stohl-Anderson, Lewis and Clark County Commissioner.

Tom Hopgood, representing the Montana Association of Realtors, said he would like to be speaking as a proponent, but found it appalling that comments were made to repeal I-105 in its entirety. The people of Montana passed I-105 and as a result, it is the state policy that no further property tax increases be imposed on property in Classes 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 and 14. The people have said they don't want their taxes raised for any reason, including extension services or 4-H. He stated until there is true tax reform in Montana the Association is unable to support any of these bills. He asked the Committee to give HB 557 a do not pass recommendation.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. REAM asked for an explanation of the funding mechanism for extension services.

Ms. Pagenkopf said 65% of the salary of a county extension agent is paid by the county, the remainder and benefits are paid by the state. The office operational expenses are paid by the county.

Closing Statement by Sponsor:

REP. McCAFFREE closed his presentation saying he feels this is an education bill for rural as well as city kids. In 1991 the promoters of I-105 went to MACO and said they realized I-105 was not working as the counties could no longer provide needed services. He said of all the programs the counties fund, he had never received a complaint about funding the 4-H programs. He stated this is not just a rural bill, it is a statewide program. He asked the Committee to pass the bill.

HEARING ON HB 616

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JERRY DRISCOLL, HD 92, Billings, said HB 616 is one of the first bills to implement the Clean Coal Technology Demonstration Project that was enacted last session. The Clean Coal Demonstration Fund within the Coal Severance Tax Trust Fund presently has a balance of \$35 million. This bill asks for a loan of \$25 million of that money. It would not affect the bonding capacity of the state. He explained the MHD (magnetohydrodynamics) project operations in Billings. He also explained the proposed amendments which he distributed. **EXHIBITS 7**

REP. DRISCOLL said federal and state governments are trying to develop cleaner burning coal and less pollution. Coal would be separated according to content of pollutants. The cleaner coal would be burned at the Corette Plant and the rest would be at the MHD plant because of the burning process at that plant. He said the plant would not only provide jobs, but would also lower pollution in the Yellowstone Valley by approximately a 17% reduction in SO₂ emissions, and would produce needed electricity for the state and the northwest area. It is a demonstration project and with the amendments being offered it must be able to repay the loan whether or not the MHD demonstration works. This research has been ongoing in Butte for years, and it is now at a point where they can commercialize and make it work on a large scale basis. It would be the first MHD project in the U.S. and he said he could envision a lot of engineers coming to see how it Taiwan is very interested because of their pollution works. problems. He said there would not only be an impact from their spending money in the state, but they would also then have to purchase the technology. That money would be repaid as this is only a request for a loan.

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. JOE QUILICI, HD 71, Butte, said he was in totally supports HB 616. He said over the years the Legislature has put a lot of money into the MHD project and now we will start realizing some of the return on the money. This will generate 100 megawatts (MW) which will be sold to pay off bonds. He asked the Committee to pass the legislation.

SEN. GARY FORRESTER, SD 49, Billings, supported HB 616 and said the MHD project puts Montana on the cutting edge of high technology. He said the most important fact is MHD allows much cleaner coal burning while it generates electricity which can

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE February 16, 1993 Page 10 of 13

then be sold. He believed the clean air was the most important part of the bill. He urged support of the bill.

Steve Huntington, representing the MHD Development Corporation, reviewed the Clean Coal Technology Demonstration Program. Mr. Huntington said the first significant clean coal bill, HB 701, was passed last session which gave DNRC the very specific direction to seek out, evaluate, and submit to the Legislature for potential funding, a legitimate quality, clean coal technology demonstration project. A fund was created within the Coal Severance Tax Trust Fund, initially established with \$25 million with an additional \$5 million per year went into the fund for the following five years. Last session that money all stayed within the Trust Fund, with a portion designated as the clean Coal Technology Demonstration Account. The bill also specified that MHD was eligible to receive a clean coal technology development loan. That loan was approved by the legislative session.

Mr. Huntington said HB 616, as amended, is the result of a great deal of work between MHD Development Corporation and DNRC. He discussed the amendments prepared by the Legislative Council. He said the corporation has accomplished a number of things. It has filed for an application through the Department of Energy for clean coal funding in the amount of \$221 million. They also put together a financial package that has attracted the interest of private lenders and investors for the project, making the total funding package worth over \$521 million. He said if MHD does not work, they have a cycle at the plant that would pay back the creditors. Over \$300 million of the \$521 million will be spent in Montana. There should be in the neighborhood of 250-300 construction jobs associated with the project, and there should be 30-50 full-time operators on the project when it is up and running. He said the bill passed last session required MHD Development Corporation to match any state funds on at least a 4-1 basis. This bill produces a matching amount or a ratio of 25-1. Montana is a leader in this kind of technology development and there would be a significant potential for jobs and economic development.

Mr. Huntington said the bill contains solid payback provisions. There are three funding sources: 1) If this technology is successful, and is licensed for further plant applications, the state will receive payback from that source. 2) If equipment is sold to the new plant as a result of the successful demonstration, the state would receive payback from that source. 3) Most importantly, the state would receive payback from the sale of electricity. The loan would be established on a 25-year basis and the state would have a security position to be paid back between 17 and 25 years, or sooner, depending upon the price of electricity and the price of construction of the plant.

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE February 16, 1993 Page 11 of 13

John Tubbs, Chief of the Resource Development Bureau, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), said the Bureau was given the responsibility of administering the demonstration program. The Billings MHD project will cost \$520 million, and the state is being asked to contribute a \$25 million loan, along with \$28.4 million in tax credit. The MHD Corporation will contribute \$245.8 million and the Department of Energy (DOE) will contribute another \$220.7 million.

REP. FOSTER asked to **Mr. Tubbs** furnish a written technical explanation of the bill prior to executive action.

Bob LaBrie, President, MHD Development Corporation, Billings, distributed the Project Overview of the MHD Demonstration Project. EXHIBIT 8

Ken Heikes, representing the Mayor of Billings, City Council, City Administrator, the County Commissioners, the Billings Area Chamber of Commerce and the Montana Trade Port Authority, said the city and county have been involved in providing information for permits, licenses, and other pertinent data, and are very supportive of this proposed legislation. He said they also support the amendments as offered and urged a do pass on HB 616.

REP. JOHN BOHLINGER, HD 94, Billings, supported HB 616 which is a loan agreement to provide for the utilization of the huge energy source in eastern Montana. He said he supported the bill for four reasons: 1) economic development, 2) creation of temporary and permanent employment, 3) it is environmentally sound, and 4) it is a secure investment because the loan will be repaid through the sale of electricity generated and the sale of technology. He urged a do pass recommendation.

David Owen, representing the Montana Chamber of Commerce, appeared in support of HB 616 and urged the Committee to pass the bill.

Elbert "Butch" Ott, President/CEO, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce, submitted a letter in support of HB 616. EXHIBIT 9

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. FOSTER asked if the 260 MW generating capacity of the MHD plant would make it the largest producer in the system.

Mr. LaBrie said Colstrip I generates 350 MW.

REP. FOSTER asked if newly generated 100 MW would be put into Montana Power Company's purchase supply.

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE February 16, 1993 Page 12 of 13

Mr. LaBrie said they anticipated selling the power as an independent power producer by marketing it in the Pacific Northwest. He hoped they could sell some to Montana Power, but also to Bonneville Power, Washington Water Power and other companies. These would be long term contracts.

REP. McCAFFREE asked **REP. DRISCOLL** if he would explain the \$28 million in tax credits?

REP. DRISCOLL said when they passed the Clean Coal Technology Demonstration Project last session it stated there would be no property tax on the parts of the plant that are strictly clean coal.

Closing Statement by Sponsor:

REP. DRISCOLL said with the amendments offered, the bill would probably be about half the size, and didn't believe they would have any problem meeting the requirements of the Major Facility Siting Act. This will clean the air, produce electricity, and burn Montana coal much cleaner. He said he hoped the amendments would be accepted and urged a do pass on the bill.

HEARING ON HB 519

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. BEVERLY BARNHART, HD 80, Bozeman, said the bill clarifies the definition of material eligible for a deduction from taxable income and provides a tax credit for deductible equipment used in reclaiming material. The tax credit may also be claimed for reclaiming certain material generated by the taxpayer. The goal of the bill is to reduce solid waste.

Rick Meis, owner of Treecycle, Bozeman, submitted written testimony. EXHIBITS 10, 10a, 10b, 10c, and 10d

Ann Marie Gritzuk, leader of the Business Development Team in the Energy Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, said this team is about a year old and most of their business development is in the area of waste utilization, both for energy conservation and the opportunity to help the environment. She spoke in support of the proposed changes on page 7 of the bill and asked that the amendments be adopted. She listed some of the industries that may be able to benefit from their assistance, i.e., pelletizing wood waste. She asked for the Committee's support of HB 519.

David Owen, representing the Montana Chamber of Commerce, said this kind of encouragement can be offered without increasing the budget problems.

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE February 16, 1993 Page 13 of 13

Helen Taffs, Legislative Intern for the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA), said the MSCPA supports HB 519 because they work with tax laws and it is important these laws are clear. They also support some fair non-special interest tax breaks to make the business climate more friendly. This would encourage the responsible use of paper in a paper-intensive industry such as the MSCPA. She asked the committee to pass the bill.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing Statement by Sponsor:

REP. BARNHART said the Committee may want to consider increasing the tax from 5% to 10%; however, she had not included it in the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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REE. <u>All Churs</u> JILL ROHYANS,

These minutes were written by Louise Sullivan and proofed for content by Jill Rohyans.

BG/jdr/ls

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TAXATION COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 2/16/93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. GILBERT, CHAIRMAN	F		
REP. FOSTER			
REP. HARRINGTON	r		
REP. ANDERSON	V		
REP. BOHLINGER	V		
REP. DOLEZAL			
REP. DRISCOLL	r		
REP. ELLIOTT			
REP. FELAND			
REP. HANSON	· 1		
REP. HARPER			
REP. HIBBARD			r
REP. KELLER	V		
REP. MCCAFFREE	~		
REP. MCCARTHY	V		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
REP, NELSON	V		
REP. ORR	V-		
REP. RANEY	V		
REP. REAM	1		
REP. TUNBY	L		

EXHIBIT____/ DATE__<u>7/16/93</u> HB___<u>539</u>

CHANGES TO THE DIESEL STATUTE

15-70-301 Section 1 (Definitions) These additions and deletions to the definition section provide the mechanism to tax diesel fuel in the same manner the State taxes gasoline.

"Agricultural Use" this definition is for the refund provision under section 38, which allows for 60% as an estimation for agricultural use.

"Bulk delivery" this definition is for the distributor's exempt sales under section 26 and the refund provision under sections 38 and 40.

"Distributed", "distributor", "export", "exporter", "import", and "importer" these terms need to be defined for the mechanism to tax diesel at the distributor level.

The following sections were **changed** to delete the information pertaining to the special fuel dealer, since the dealer is not responsible to pay the state the tax.

- section 2, section 3, section 4, section 5, section 6, section 7, section 11, section 13, section 14, section 15, section 16, section 17, section 18, section 19, section 20, section 21, section 22, section 23.
- repealing 15-70-316 and 15-70-322

The following sections were **added** to allow for the mechanism to tax diesel fuel at the distributor level. These sections were patterned after the "basic gasoline license tax".

Section 24 through section 42

EXHIBIT	<u>#</u>]
DATE 2	-16-93
XLHE	3-539

15-70-302 Section 2 and Section 9

Changing the reference from "Checking Station Office" to "Motor Carrier Services Division" is a housekeeping measure that ensures compliance with the creation of the Montana Department of Transportation effective July 1, 1991.

15-70-302 Section 2, part (3)

Deletes part three. The State exempts all vehicles under 26,001 regardless of use as long as all fuel is purchased tax paid. If fuel is purchased ex-tax, as provided in section 26, users operating vehicles under 26,000 pounds are required in section 6 to purchase a permit depending on the weight of the vehicle.

15-70-302 Section 2, part (5)

Deletes b, c, and d. These parts are redundant since one of the IRP requirements states a carrier must be also an IFTA user.

15-70-302 Section 2, part (6)

Deleted predominantly for agricultural use since all vehicles under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weights are exempt from licensing and reporting except if purchasing extax fuel, as provided in section 26.

15-70-304 Section 4, part (1)

Deleted the part waiving the bond requirements of a contractor if the contractor posts a performance bond. Performance bonds currently are not written to include fuel taxes.

15-70-305 Section 5, part (3)

This provision was added to require users, who surrender a license or who have their license revoked by the state, to pay \$100.00 reissue fee. The fee helps defray the cost of licensing and gives an incentive to the user to keep their account current to avoid revocation.

-2-

E.7.81131 # 1 DATE 2-816-93 TL HB-539

15-70-309 Section 8

This section is amended to provide a permit fee for vehicles under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight that receive ex-tax fuel.

15-70-311 Section 9

Since all vehicles under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight are exempt the trip permit is necessary for vehicles over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight that are traveling without a special fuel user's vehicle permit.

15-70-312 Section 10

To clarify not only vehicles hauling produce but all vehicles hauling commodities.

15-70-315 Section 11

This provides the tracking system for non-taxed diesel fuel.

15-70-329 Section 19

This was added to allow a statute of limitation for payment of credit. Senate Bill 126 also address this.

Repeal

Section 15-70-316 Cardtrol statement on pumps. This notice is not necessary for the pumps since all fuel is taxable unless qualifies under section 26.

Section 15-70-322 Reference to the tax on diesel at the pumps.

The special fuel dealer is not required to pay the tax.

Remains without change

Section 15-70-308 Temporary Cash Compliance Bond. This is needed for vehicles over 26,001 gross vehicle weight traveling without a special fuel user's vehicle permit.

-3-

EXHIBIT #1 EXHIBIT #1. DATE 2-16-93 HB-539_

Section 15-70-313 Department to Furnish Forms. This allows the department to design forms for the temporary permits.

Section 15-70-314 Penalty for operation without temporary permit - compliance bond - policy continue.

This is necessary for temporary permits.

Reserved

- 15-70-310
- 15-70-317 through 15-70-320

CA:D:AC:19.mb

Presently Montana does not have full accountability HB 539 diesel fuel within the state. The purpose of this bill is to obtain full accountability of diesel fuel and eliminate the licensing and reporting requirements for users who operate vehicles under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight and not purchasing diesel fuel ex-tax. The following is a list of diesel users and how the proposed diesel bill will affect them:

EXHIBIT X

AGRICULTURAL

CURRENT STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES: Currently the agricultural user can purchase any amount of bulk diesel fuel without paying tax. Agricultural users fueling on-highway vehicles out of bulk storage must keep a complete dispersal record on all diesel fuel withdrawn from bulk storage. The users report the usage to the department quarterly.

Agricultural users who own only cars or pickups under 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight and elect to fuel the vehicles out of tax-free bulk diesel may opt to purchase a special authorization permit each year for \$120 per vehicle. The permit releases the user from keeping a complete dispersal record of all the diesel fuel withdrawn from storage.

Agricultural users operating vehicles both under and over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight can purchase a permit for vehicles under 10,000 pounds, but must keep a complete dispersal record of the fuel for vehicles over 10,000 pounds.

The agricultural user only fueling off-highway vehicles from bulk diesel storage is not required to keep a dispersal record or report the diesel usage to the department.

-1-

AGRICULTURAL

PROPOSED STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES: The agricultural user can purchase bulk diesel fuel in quantities of 200 gallons or more and not pay the tax. Agricultural users who fuel on-highway vehicles from bulk diesel storage must keep a complete dispersal record on all diesel fuel withdrawn from storage. Users report the usage to the department quarterly.

Agricultural users who own vehicles under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight and fueling out of ex-tax diesel bulk must purchase a special authorization permit which eliminates the record keeping for those vehicles.

Agricultural users who operate vehicles both under and over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight and fueling out of ex-tax diesel bulk must purchase a permit for the vehicles under 26,001 pounds, keep track of the vehicle's mileage and maintain a complete dispersal record of all fuel used in vehicles over 26,000 pounds. Users must report usage to the department quarterly.

The agricultural user only fueling off-highway vehicles from bulk diesel storage is not required to keep a dispersal record or report the diesel usage to the department.

All bulk diesel fuel purchases less than 200 gallons must be purchased tax-paid. The tax may be eligible for refund if the fuel was used off-highway.

MOTOR CARRIERS (TRUCKING)

CURRENT STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES: Currently the trucking industry can purchase bulk quantities of diesel fuel without paying the tax. Carriers who fuel on-highway vehicles from bulk storage must keep a complete



dispersal record on all diesel fuel withdrawn from storage. Carriers report the usage to the department quarterly.

Carriers who purchase tax-paid diesel fuel through retail outlets also must report all diesel fuel purchased and miles traveled to the department quarterly.

MOTOR CARRIERS (TRUCKING)

PROPOSED STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES: The trucking industry can purchase bulk diesel fuel in quantities of 200 gallons or more and not pay the tax. Carriers who fuel on-highway vehicles from bulk diesel storage must keep a complete dispersal record on all diesel fuel withdrawn from storage. Carriers report the usage to the department quarterly.

Carriers who own vehicles under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight must purchase a special authorization permit which would eliminate the record keeping.

Carriers who operate vehicles both under and over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight must purchase a permit for the vehicles under 26,001 pounds, keep track of the vehicle's mileage, and maintain a complete dispersal record of all fuel used in vehicles over 26,000 pounds. Carriers report usage to the department quarterly.

If trucking companies only purchase tax-paid diesel fuel through retail outlets, the carrier still must report all fuel purchased and miles traveled to the department quarterly.

Carriers must pay tax on any bulk diesel purchases in quantities less than 200 gallons. The tax may be eligible for refund if the fuel is used off-highway or out-of-state. **CURRENT STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES:** Currently contractors, loggers, miners and railroad can purchase any amount of bulk diesel fuel without paying the tax. These users must keep a complete dispersal record on all diesel fuel withdrawn from storage and report all usage to the department quarterly.

If these industries only fuel off-highway vehicles from bulk diesel storage, they are not required to keep a dispersal record or report the usage to the department. However, contractors, who fuel any vehicle in conjunction with a highway project, must report all fuel consumed to the department. All fuel affiliated with highway projects is taxable.

CONTRACTORS, LOGGERS, MINERS, RAILROAD PROPOSED STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES: Contractors, loggers, miners and railroad can purchase bulk diesel fuel in quantities of 200 gallons or more and not pay the tax.

The industries who fuel on-highway vehicles from bulk diesel storage must keep a complete dispersal record on all diesel fuel withdrawn from storage. Industries report the usage to the department quarterly.

The industries that own vehicles under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight must purchase a special authorization permit which eliminates the record keeping.

The industries that operate vehicles both under and over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight must purchase a permit for the vehicles under 26,001 pounds, keep track of the

-4-

vehicle's mileage, and report all fuel used in vehicles over 26,000 pounds. Industries report usage to the department quarterly.

If industries purchase bulk diesel fuel in quantities less than 200 gallons, they must pay the tax. Users may file for a refund of the tax if the fuel was used off-highway.

If industries only fuel off-highway vehicles from bulk diesel storage, they are not required to keep a dispersal record or report the usage to the department. The only exception is for contractors who consume bulk diesel fuel in conjunction with a highway project. All diesel fuel consumed on highway projects is taxable.

SPECIAL FUEL DEALER CURRENT STATUTE REQUIREMENT FOR DEALERS:

Currently special fuel dealers must keep inventory records on all fuel received. The dealer files a monthly report which indicates the amount of tax due through retail sales of diesel.

SPECIAL FUEL DEALER

PROPOSED STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEALERS: Special fuel dealers will not be required to report retail sales and remit payment to the department. The special fuel dealer will pay the tax to the supplier of diesel fuel at the time of delivery.

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

CURRENT STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRIBUTOR: Currently diesel distributors are not required to keep track of or report diesel sales to the department.

EAHIBIT #2 DATE 2-16-93 <u>+B-539</u>

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

PROPOSED STATUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRIBUTOR: Diesel distributors must keep track of and report all diesel sales off the terminal to the department.

CA:D:AC:18.mb

EXHIBIT DATE. HB_

February 16, 1993

Subject:

-

Amendments to House Bill 539

Submitted by:

William Salisbury, Administrator Administration Division Department of Transportation

Montana Department of Transportation amendments to House Bill 539 are as follows:

(1) INSERT

1.	P.2, line 13	following:	"fuel"	
		insert:	"not intended for resale"	
2.	P. 33, line 9	following:	"more"	
		insert:	"not intended for resale"	

Date: February 16, 1993

House Bill 539

SUBMITTED BY: WILLIAM SALISBURY, ADMINISTRATOR ADMINISTRATION DIVISION MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

"AN ACT TO IMPOSE THE COLLECTION OF SPECIAL FUEL TAXATION AT THE DISTRIBUTOR LEVEL RATHER THAN THE RETAIL LEVEL."

Elevates the point of taxation on special fuel from the retail level to the distributor level effective January 1, 1994, to provide a tracking system to determine diesel fuel movement and usage within the State, substantially decrease the potential for tax evasion and fraud and to accelerate the tax collection process.

The Montana Department of Transportation appears before this committee to offer our support for House Bill 539.

The current method of retail level taxation allows anyone to purchase bulk deliveries of diesel fuel tax-free. The purchaser simply can claim the bulk purchase for off-highway use and then use the same fuel in on-highway vehicles.

If the tax is collected at the distributor level, retailers will be required to sell most diesel fuel with the tax included. The only entities who could purchase exempted fuel from retailers would be the following:

- United States government, State of Montana, any other state, county, incorporated city, town, and school district of this state;
- users who buy fuel in bulk delivery quantities of 200 gallons or more not intended for resale;
- for export, unless the distributor is not licensed and is not paying the tax to the state where the fuel is destined.

All other users who purchase diesel fuel for off-highway use will be required to prove off-highway use before they're eligible for a tax refund. This is the same process required in gasoline refund. Proving eligibility for refunds will increase accountability for the state and decrease the opportunity for tax evasion and fraud. Ideally, the Department of Transportation wants to manage diesel fuel taxation just as gasoline taxation -- which does not allow exemptions. Raising special fuel taxation to the distributor level would provide an avenue for tracking diesel fuel movement and usage within the state.

Finally, collecting the tax as it is distributed, rather than as it is used, would enhance the Department of Transportation's cash flow and the associated interest earnings to the General Fund.

The Montana Department of Transportation urges this committee to give this proposal a do-pass recommendation.



CXHIBIT

February 16, 1993

TO: HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

FROM: PRAIRIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE: HB 523

The Prairie County Board of Commissioners would like to go on record against House Bill 523 sponsored by Representative Dick Knox, for the following reasons:

- Prairie County currently receives approximately \$50,000 in Bankhead Jones land payments. These dollars are used for road maintenance and represents 13 mills of a total of 19 mills levied for the Road Fund. I-105 would prevent us from making these mills up.
- Prairie County would stand to lose a minimum of \$12,000 in Federal funds, best scenerio, (assuming we would receive our maximum in PILT payments of \$69150) OR, worst scenerio, could stand to lose \$38300 if maximum PILT payments were not appropriated. Would State General Fund make up this amount every year
 It is in the best interest of Prairie County taxpayers to use the Bankhead Jones payment to lower the levied amount for the Road Fund, rather than to allocate it to the School District.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY, COMMISSIONERS

Chaoman. Cha/frman

Clifford H. Neiffer

PCC:1k cc: MACO



MEMO

TO: BOB GILBERT, CHAIRMAN HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

- FROM: VALLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 1993
- RE: HOUSE BILL 523

Valley County received \$55,373.92 for one year as follows:

If these funds were cut off by HB 523, it would result in a substantial loss to the County and have a negative impact on our funds and our taxpayers.

Therefore, we want to go on record as being opposed to HB 523.

cc: Gordon Morris, MACo

EXHIBIT DATE

Amendments to House Bill No. 616 First Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Driscoll For the Committee on Taxation

> Prepared by Greg Petesch February 15, 1993

1. Page 1, line 24 through page 2, line 9.
Following: "million" on page 1, line 24
Strike: remainder of line 24 through "bill" on page 2, line 9

2. Page 2, line 20.
Following: "."
Insert: "The methods described in the clean coal V application
 for production of electric power provide for a process that
 will operate with or without the successful demonstration of
 the MHD technology."

3. Page 3, lines 8 and 9. Following: "means" on line 8 Strike: remainder of line 8 through "and" on line 9 Insert: "a consortium of private companies"

4. Page 4, line 1. Strike: "any"

5. Page 4, lines 2 and 3. Strike: "interest" on line 2 Insert: "interests" Following: "technology" on line 2 Strike: remainder of line 2 through "possessed" on line 3

6. Page 5, line 24. Strike: "award" Insert: "selection"

7. Page 6, line 1. Strike: "at least \$100 million" Insert: "an award"

8. Page 6, line 22.
Following: "accrue"
Insert: "and be capitalized"
Following: "to"
Insert: "taxable"

9. Page 7, line 8. Strike: "0.05%" Insert: "0.5%"

10. Page 7, lines 10 through 13. Following: "(b) " on line 10 Strike: remainder of line 10 through "the" on line 13 Insert: "(i) The" 11. Page 7, lines 13 through 15. Following: "shall" on line 13 Strike: remainder of line 13 through "taxes," on line 15 12. Page 7, line 17. Following: "power" Insert: "upon the occurrence of the first of the following: (A) the beginning of the 17th year after the loan agreement is signed by the parties; (B) repayment obligations to senior debt creditors have been satisfied; or changes in the price of electricity sold as a (C) result of project operations, changes in expenses paid as a result of project operations, or changes in other financial factors cause net cash flow to be greater than that projected to be available after making periodic payments to senior debt creditors and the appropriate allowance for taxes" Following: "." Insert: "(ii)" Following: "made" Insert: ", when there is sufficient cash flow available after the appropriate allowance for the payment of taxes," 13. Page 8, line 5. Strike: "If" Insert: "Except as provided in subsection (10), if" 14. Page 8, line 14. Following: "be" Insert: "first" 15. Page 8, line 15. Following: "loan" Insert: ", then to any interest accumulated on the principal" 16. Page 10, line 6. Strike: "all" 17. Page 10, line 14. Following: the second "project" Insert: "and to meet its repayment obligations to creditors" 18. Page 10, line 25 through page 11, line 1. Following: "obligations" on page 10, line 25 Strike: remainder of page 10, line 25 through "of" on page 11, line 1 Insert: "extend beyond"

2



19. Page 11, line 7. Strike: "disbursement" Insert: "semiannual" Strike: "semiannual"

20. Page 11, lines 15 and 16. Following: "to" on line 15 Strike: "the same" Following: "requirements" on line 15 Strike: remainder of line 15 through "applicable to" on line 16 Insert: "established by the department. The requirements may not be less than those imposed upon"

21. Page 11, line 23. Following: "transaction" Insert: "or the absence of any transaction"

22. Page 12, line 23. Strike: "and the MHD development corporation"



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Billings DATE HB HB Project

□ OVERVIEW

The Billings Magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) Demonstration Project (BMDP) will be the world's first demonstration of the fully-integrated operation of an MHD plant at the 100-MW_e scale. The plant will be located in Billings, Montana, at The Montana Power Company's J. E. Corette Plant site. This project, being pursued by the MHD Development Corporation (MDC), is the next critical step for providing data to scale up MHD to commercial size.

The project will be constructed, operated, and owned by MDC. Babcock & Wilcox, Gilbert Commonwealth, MSE, Textron Defense Systems, The Montana Power Company, TRW, University of Tennessee Space Institute, and Westinghouse are the major team members. Participation Agreements with EPRI and electric utility company supporters will be established.

After three years of demonstration operation, the project will be operated as an independent power project. The revenue from electric power sales will be used to amortize bonds and cover the ownership risk. A request for \$220 million in funding support has been made to the Department of Energy (DOE) through its Clean Coal V Program. Upon selection by DOE, the State of Montana will provide a \$25 million loan, and additional project financing will be provided through equity participation and bank loans. The Bank of America is the financial advisor for this project.

□ MHD BACKGROUND

Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) provides the highest potential efficiency and best total environmental performance of any coal-burning technology being developed today. The United States and the world will need this new technology to provide the most efficient coal-fired electrical power generation alternative. DOE's MHD proof-of-concept program is nearing completion, and the next phase of development is required to advance the technology to commercialization. The Program Opportunity Notice for DOE's Clean Coal V solicited proposals for the demonstration of coal-using technologies that will "advance significantly the efficiency and environmental performance."

BILLINGS MHD DEMONSTRATION PROJECT STATUS

The MHD Development Corporation has submitted a proposal in response to DOE's Clean Coal V solicitation for proposals to build the BMDP, an MHD commercial demonstration to be collocated at The Montana Power Company's J. E. Corette Plant site in Billings, Monatana.

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

This project is being sponsored by MDC, which was formed in 1985 to promote and coordinate the commercialization of MHD. Since an MHD plant is essentially two complete power systems and not a single component, it requires a broad technological base. No single equipment supplier has the technical depth or variety of commercial products to supply the entire facility. Thus, this consortium blends the traditional power industry, regional expertise, and specialty organizations needed to develop this energy efficient technology. The Montana Power Company (host utility and site owner) and Gilbert Commonwealth (project architect and engineer) represent the traditional electric industry to ensure that MHD will be scalable and transferrable to the evolving utility industry. MSE

(operating contractor for DOE's MHD test facility in Butte, Montana) will be the demonstration plant operator. TRW will provide the coal combustor and seed regeneration plant. Textron Defense Systems will supply the channel, Babcock & Wilcox will provide the superconducting magnet, and Westinghouse will supply the power conditioning system. The University of Tennessee Space Institute will prepare the conceptual design of the heat recovery and seed recovery sections of the plant. By the end of DOE's proof-of-concept program (presently scheduled for completion in the next 12 months), all MHD hardware will have been proven

through extensive testing. Data is now being collected on prototypic commercial hardware.

□ PLANT DESCRIPTION

The design for the BMDP is based on the Corette MHD Retrofit Conceptual Design and a previous MHD utility requirements document. A significant change was made from a retrofit design to a stand alone design, thereby, providing for a turbine generator that will provide for power production with or without the MHD topping cycle. This design will help to guarantee power sales for loans used in the financial

structure. Similarly, a seed regeneration system has been added to improve the economics of the operation. The size of the demonstration has been determined by selecting reasonable scaling factors between present MHD testing facilities (nominally 50 MW₁) and the next commercial size plant (nominally 1000 MW,). The resultant plant size chosen for this demonstration is 250 MW₁. The plant will produce approximately 90 MW electrical power from the 250 MW thermal input. A schematic of the proposed plant is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Proposed Billings Magnetohydrodynamics Demonstration Project

ROLE IN COMMERCIALIZATION INITIATIVE

Plant construction is slated to begin in 1995, with completion and startup in 1997. The plant will then be operated in a demonstration operational phase for three years to provide data necessary to support commercialization of the technology. At the conclusion of this phase, operation as an independent power producer will continue with longterm electric sales contracts to nearby utilities. The proceeds from these sales will pay for operating costs and loan debt while providing a return yield to the investors.

This project is an important step in MDC's commercialization of the MHD technology. This plan calls for the commercial size plant to be designed and built based on the experiences and success of the BMDP. This commercial size plant will be in operation about 2002.

□ PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the BMDP is to demonstrate that the MHD technology can significantly advance the efficiency and environmental performance of coal-fired electrical power generating facilities. The technical, environmental, economic, and operating goals to achieve this objective include:

- demonstrating the performance and control of the integrated operation of the MHD topping and bottoming cycles, and seed regeneration systems;
- demonstrating efficiency performance at plant scale, which can lead to a commercial MHD system having a net efficiency approaching 60 percent;

- demonstrating environmental performance that 1) removes more than 99 percent of the sulfur oxide emissions; 2) produces nitrogen oxide emissions at less than 0.1 lb/mBtu; and 3) is significantly less in air toxic and carbon dioxide emissions, liquid wastes, and solid wastes than any technology in use or currently being developed;
- providing financial and economic data to demonstrate the potential for competitive capital costs and lower cost of electricity for commercial sale; and
- establishing operability, reliability, availability, and maintainability data of an operating MHD system, thereby, permitting utilities to make educated decisions for future plant requirements.

ADVANTAGES AND APPLICATIONS

MHD has the potential to be the most efficient, least costly, and cleanest way to burn coal.

MHD achieves its potential by burning coal in a pressurized combustor with preheated air or oxygen to produce a combustion plasma gas having a temperature between 4,500 and 5,000 °F. This high temperature leads to high efficiency. A seed material, such as a potassium salt or compound, is added to increase electrical conductivity in the ionized plasma. This seed material reacts with the sulphur compounds to make gypsum and fly ash, which are both recovered-effectively eliminating all sulphur oxides. The gas passes through an MHD generator at about Mach 1 to extract electrical power. The hot gases exiting the MHD generator are then directed into a

modified conventional heat recovery boiler system to generate steam for producing additional power.

The MHD system will eliminate essentially all of the sulphur oxides emissions, reduce the nitrogen oxides emissions to about one-sixth of today's standards, and reduce particulate emissions using the best technology that exists. Future plants will also reduce greenhouse gases to about 60 percent of today's emissions because of their high efficiency.

Increased efficiency greatly reduces the size of the total plant complex. For instance, today's 33 percent efficient 1000 MW_e plant requires a physical plant of 3000 MW_t. A fully developed 60 percent efficient MHD power plant at 1000 MW_e will require a less than 1700 MW_t physical facility.

The BMDP, a follow-on to the DOE National MHD Development Program begun in 1983, is intended to demonstrate the MHD technology. The database developed from the program represents an investment of \$800 million in this technology. The BMDP is a logical followup of this research and development effort to lead to a clean, efficient, low cost way to use coal, our nation's most abundant fossil resource. It is also a logical recipient to a Clean Coal V award, since the Congressional mandate for that solicitation was to conduct cost-shared demonstration projects that "advance significantly the efficiency and environmental performance of coal-using technologies."

□ SCHEDULE

DOE will announce selections for negotiations May 6, 1993. The following is the project schedule.

- Signed award—Jan. 1, 1994.
- Complete project definition activities and firm cost estimate— Jan. 1, 1995.
- Begin construction—June 1, 1995.
- Begin startup tests-June 1, 1997.
- Begin Demonstration testing-April 1, 1998.
- Complete demonstration testing—June 20, 2000.

□ PROJECT COST

Total project cost as estimated for the Clean Coal V proposal is approximately \$650 million. This estimate includes the engineering and construction costs as well as the operating costs for the three year startup and demonstration period.

□ FUNDING APPROACH

The total funding package includes \$220 million requested from DOE; a \$25 million loan from the State of Montana's Clean Coal Technology Fund; \$29 million in tax exemptions; and the remainder of funds (over 60 percent) will be from participant equity funds and loans.

The Bank of America is the financial advisor to this project, and they believe this project is fundable based on its pro forma models.

Technical, financial, and political support from the participants, electric utility industry, EPRI, and other entities, is needed for this project to succeed.

EPRI is encouraging the utilization of their Tailored Collaboration Program. This program provides for an EPRI match of utility dollars contributed in excess of their regular EPRI dues.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Upon notification of selection for the Clean Coal V award, participation agreements will be executed. The eight companies who have teamed together for the project will be expected to include other participants and investors. Union Carbide and the Northern States Power NRG Group have indicated interest in equity participation. Participation agreements with EPRI and other electric utility companies and suppliers are anticipated.

BACKGROUND OF THE MHD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MDC was established in 1985 as a consortium of private companies, universities, and utilities whose stated purpose is "to initiate, promote, and coordinate efforts toward effecting MHD commercialization, including development of commercial demonstration of electric utility steam power plants with MHD topping systems and including other practical applications of MHD and to involve and coordinate the involvement of private industry as well as public bodies in such efforts."

Subsequently, MDC has taken the lead in the MHD technology commercialization effort. With the successful award of the BMDP, MDC will focus on the follow-on MHD commercial applications.

DATE 3-16-93 HB-616FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact: Mr. Robert Labrie, President MHD Development Corporation P.O. Box 3809 Butte, MT 59702 (406) 782-0463




AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE .

February 15, 1993

Representative Glibert House Taxation Committee Capitol Station Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Gilbert and House Taxation Committee Members,

The Billings Area Chamber of Commerce supports the adoption of HB 616: An act providing a clean coal technology demonstration loan to the MHD Development Corporation. This project will produce needed electrical power in a manner that is not detrimental to the environment. The technology required for the MHD plant will be beneficial not only for Billings, but also for Montana and the United States.

Considerable effort has been given over the years to development of the MHD plant. It is of utmost importance that the progress to that end continue. Do pass HB 616.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation.

Respectfully yours,

Buich' 'Œ+ President/CEO







Testimony of Rick Meis on H.B. 519 "An Act to clarify the definition of recycled material eligible for a deduction ..." February 16, 1993

Chairman Gilbert, members of the Committee,

My name is Rick Meis, and I am from Bozeman. I have a small business called Treecycle, which sells recycled paper products. That should explain why I am here. I support H.B. 519.

The motto of Treecycle is "the other half of recycling." I think this is important. Recycling is a loop, and if it is going to be successful, then there must be a demand for the products made with the material which you and I take to the collection centers.

Recycling is to take our recyclables to the recycling center AND to buy and use products made with those materials. The ability to have our paper and plastic readily accepted at a recycling center hinges on the subsequent demand for products made with those materials. This bill will help create a demand for the endless amounts of paper collected in all those big, blue bins all around the capitol building.

I know recycled paper, but much of the same holds true for plastics also, and these are two of the biggest items choking our landfills. We must make every attempt to support the collection of post-consumer materials. These make up over 85% of the post-mill recoverable paper wastes, and paper can be as much as 40% of the material going into landfills; plastics can be 7%.

My comments today are directed at paper but can be applied to other items as well.

Two years ago, a piece of legislation passed that created a tax credit for purchase of items associated with recycling. It gave the Department of Revenue the power to establish the rules for a tax credit for businesses using recycled material. I appreciate the effort that those involved put forward.

However, the piece of legislation and the subsequent rules fall short of being effective for the purchase of recycled products. I want to address Rule 42.15.416. As it is written, for fine papers (printing and writing) the 90% reclaimed material definition is unlikely to be readily achievable even by those wishing to do so. A lack of knowledge (and a small mistake) allows only small fraction of good recycled products available. According to the rules, recycled equals 90% reclaimed equals post-consumer. This is the place where good definitions and the distinction between types of recovered materials is necessary.

Only a tiny handful of papers for printing and writing, some speciality items like these tablets, and this brand of toilet paper qualify. Yes, I have some customers that will be taking deductions for 1992. I'd be willing to wager that very few other businesses in the State of Montana will be taking the deduction ... legally, that is.

I know this was not the intent. I hope this committee will help to correct this. In fact, the sponsor of the legislation two years ago, Sen. Halligan, is a signer on this bill.

The intent of Rep. Barnhart's bill addresses post-consumer content as an ultimate goal of this legislation. The US EPA guidelines, for instance, after listing the minimum content specifications

go on to note the intent is the maximum post-consumer content practicable. It is usually overlooked as the goal however, and if we state it more up front, it may help the private sector to be more aggressive in its pursuit of this.

Rep. Barnhart's bill will fix the problem in the rules as I mentioned above. It will allow businesses that put the effort forward to use good recycled products to take this token deduction for it.

General rulemaking authority is delegated to the Department of Revenue. They do not know all the details necessary and need to seek advise on the implementation of this. Last time they made a mistake and did not probably know it. I think directing the Department to specifically seek advise through consultation with experts in the fields will alleviate the problem, and this bill directs that to happen.

A major goal of reduction is accomplished by use of post-consumer material -- the stuff you and I take to the recycling centers; the stuff in all those big bins throughout this building.

I think it is very much a commendable move that these innovative types of deductions and credits are being developed. I encourage your support of H.B. 519.

(Ever wondered where all that paper goes?)

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rick Meis

EXHIBIT DATE_ HB.

Supplemental information to help understand the necessity for H.B. 519. prepared by Rick Meis as an addendum to testimony on H.B. 519

Why a bill like this? Why recycled? What does it accomplish? Just what is it the Department of Revenue is supposed to do to meet this?

Treecycle approaches recycled paper from the angle of resource conservation, not simply trying to sell someone the recycled logo. I have done quite a bit of research into recycled paper and the the issues of solid waste and pollution which recycled paper can address.

The goals of solid waste reduction can readily include the ability to reduce pollution, and good recycled paper (and other) products can accomplish both reduction of materials going to a landfill and reduce pollution from the production of the recycled papers. The goal of solid waste reduction and land conservation (longer life landfills) and the related reduction of both pollution at landfills and in the production of the recycled product are benefits to the public and our environment.

An effectively implemented tax credit like this can also weed out those items called recycled, even 100% recycled, that really are no change from how things have always been done. 100% recycled toilet paper, for example, should not qualify unless it contains an absolute minimum of 20% post-consumer material. By the time the rules are drafted, this will probably be more like 40%. Many companies have been making what some call recycled t.p. for a long time, but without the inclusion of a minimum of post-consumer material, it is really no change from what has always been done, and thus does nothing and should not be rewarded.

On the other side of the coin, just because there are some toilet papers out there that say they are 100% recycled and may be interpreted to compete with t.p.'s of new material on an even basis, the really progressive tissues that are of a high post-consumer content (and generally more expensive) should not be discounted as they really do create a demand for post-consumer recycled material.

There are about 12 or so paper companies that have extremely environmentally sound papers out not just recycled-wise but also chemical-wise; about 6 or so that have shifted in a major way to this goal, not just putting out an image leader. But there are quite a few papers that meet the minimum possibilities I delineate below.

I think it is very important to have it applicable for tax year 1993. With the state collecting and recycling papers, and the encouragement the private sector is getting, I think we need to encourage it as rapidly as possible.

Please do not be too discouraged that I make it sound intensely more complicated than you may think it should be, but I will try to explain myself as I go. Information on, the quality of, and the understanding of recycled paper is changing rapidly. It is important to keep up and not promote the wrong kind of actions as the EPA guidelines inadvertently did.

It is also very important that we all understand the definitions associated with the word "recycle" and derivations thereof. There is not a good, hard and fast definition even for this key word. I go back to the root bases for the word and the definition becomes: to have a complete set of events or phenomena occur in the same sequence; to use over again or put back into series again.

Conservatree Paper Company has prepared a "Recycled Paper Agenda for the '90s." This is probably the most innovative proposal of its type in the nation. Much as I would like to, I do not advocate wholesale adoption of this program all at once in Montana, although it is certainly a good goal. When a paper is labeled as a certain percentage of recycled content, it may be by weight or by fiber (as you are probably used to). Paper can be up to 30% or more water, fillers, and chemicals. The easiest comparison for understanding this is that the average recycled paper you may be used to is labeled 50% recycled. This may be by fiber content. Measured by weight it would actually be only about 40% recycled. And vice versa, some 50% recycled, by fiber, papers may actually be closer to 60% by weight.

I do not consider mill waste as a recycled material. Again, many of the recycled papers you may be familiar with may be most, if not all, mill waste. The reason I do not accept this source as recycled is that mill wastes have always, 100%, been reused by the industry -- none has ever gone to a landfill. If the idea of recycling is to promote waste that currently is hauled away and buried as a recoverable or reclaimable resource, then it is defeating the purpose to allow something that is already used to be labeled as such.

This is where good definitions for post-mill, de-inked, and post-consumer become important. It would be defeating any intent of recycling to allow mill waste recycled papers to qualify for this deduction. We must make every attempt to support the collection of post-consumer materials. These make up over 85% of the post-mill recoverable paper wastes, and paper can be as much as 40% of the material going into landfills.

Much the same is true for plastics.

As these kinds of things change rapidly, it would be good to have the flexibility of phasing in stricter requirements in a few years, as well as offer an incentive for use of the best -- the highest post-consumer content.

I would suggest a two-tiered system would be more fair and promote use of de-inked and postconsumer materials.

For the 5% deduction:

recycled printing and writing paper should contain, by fiber:

a) 50% recycled including 10% post-consumer material,

b) 50% post-mill and/or de-inked materials

recycled newsprint should contain, by fiber:

a) 40% post-consumer material

recycled paper bags should contain, by fiber:

a) 40% post-consumer material, or

b) be made from un-repulped, recovered paper

recycled corrugated and fiberboard boxes should contain, by fiber:

a) 60% recycled content including 40% post-consumer material

recycled tissue products should contain by fiber:

a) 100% post-mill recycled materials including

40% post-consumer for paper towels,

30% post consumer for paper napkins,

20% post-consumer for toilet tissue,

20% post-consumer for facial tissue.

It should not include papers labeled recycled that are not certified in some way to contain the materials as delineated above. This could be done by the Department of Revenue in the simplest of fashions. Also note that I have listed my contents by fiber. H.B. 519 allows for either presentation of recycled content, as long as it is consistent.

EXHIBIT TF 10 DATE_______ HB-519

It would be good to set up the system to give a higher (10%) deduction for recycled paper containing:

recycled printing and writing paper should contain, by fiber:

a) 100% post-mill recycled incl/ 20% post-consumer material,

recycled newsprint should contain, by fiber:

a) 90% post-consumer material

recycled tissue products should contain by fiber:

a) 90% post-consumer materials

These numbers are all readily achievable now in Montana. However, the numbers listed in the 5% list are very lax, and should become stricter as the market improves for what is available. I want to emphasize that the qualifying papers should be certified in some fashion. Many businesses selling recycled paper really don't understand what it is they are selling or why. I run into this all the time. Some of the papers being sold as recycled in the state are simply papers made of mill waste. Although this currently meets the EPA guidelines, it is expected that the updated guidelines will not contain this category as it fails to meet the intent of the guidelines. In several states and Canada, this kind of paper cannot be labeled, called, or sold as recycled. It would certainly not be innovative to continue to support this problem.

An important point to remember is that the quality of recycled paper is as varied as paper itself. An often heard argument against recycled paper is that it doesn't have the quality. That would be like saying cars are noisy and uncomfortable. A few cars, maybe. A few recycled papers, maybe. There is a recycled paper that meets every need.

In fact, most recycled papers are of such a quality that the average person would be hard pressed to tell recycled from non-recycled. The most variable thing in recycled paper is the environmental quality. Some barely reduce air and water degradation. Some are as benign as it is possible to make paper. At Treecycle, we feel it is important to know that, and make every effort to offer the most environmentally benign papers that meet the quality needs of the consumer. One recycled copy paper is not necessarily the same as the next; the same with rag bond, printing paper, etc.

I have working papers on the myths and realities of recycled paper and pollution from paper production which I can send you if you are interested. Thank you for your time and interest in the matter. Do not hesitate to get hold of me if you have any questions or concerns.



COMMUNITY FOOD CO-OP

908 W. Main St. * Bozeman, MT 59715 * (406) 587-4039

February 15, 1993

Representative Gilbert:

As manager of the Community Food Co-op, I would like to encourage your support of legislation granting tax credits for recycling efforts. House bill #519 attempts to encourage businesses to purchase recycled products.

Our experience has been that it requires a real commitment to recycling and the future of the Earth for businesses to go the extra effort needed to recycle. Its a hasslel Until the economics of the situation change businesses and individuals will need the stimulus of legislation to find the motivation.

Far sighted individuals like you and the people you represent can see that once we get the demand for recycled products going the economics will take care of itself. But until then we need legislation like HB 519. Thankyou for listening and your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely insch

Dana Huschle Co-manager

EXHIBIT_10.B DATE_2/16/93 HB_516

DANA DESIGN LTD 1950 North 19th Avenue Bozeman, Montana 59715 TEL: 406-587-4188 FAX: 406-585-9284 15 February, 1993

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has come to our attention that House Bill 519, sponsored by Beverly Barnhardt, is being discussed in committee soon. I would like to give you some feedback on the viability of this bill, from our standpoint as a Montana manufacturer. We believe that recycling is very important to Bozeman, as well as Montana and the entire human population. Here in Bozeman we face the situation that our landfill will soon be full, and we will need to start a new one. This could be a never ending problem, and most people do not want a landfill in their back yard, visible from <u>their</u> house, draining into <u>their</u> water supply, or sitting under <u>their</u> food-crop fields.

What better way to ease this problem than to recycle parts of what would otherwise end up as landfill. Now, upon investigation, you will probably discover that on a business scale (as opposed to personal home scale) there is little chance to gain monetarily for recycling. Yes, we save the cost of putting cardboard, plastic, aluminum, glass, and a few other items into the landfill (lower garbage rates). However, the cost to us to get the recyclable items to a destination where they can then be recycled is equal to or greater than any perceived savings.

An additional way to encourage recycling is to utilize products that are "recycled". Further investigation leads to the realization that most products that are composed partially or totally of recycled components are usually more expensive to purchase that their "virgin" counterparts.

Currently, it appears, that there is no real incentive for a Montana business to aid in decreasing garbage input into our diminishing landfills, other than feeling real good about doing it. Some of us will continue to recycle JUST because we know it is the right thing to do. However, the current bill before you will actually give many Montana businesses a further incentive to decrease the rising costs of dealing with garbage. I believe that in the long run, much more money will be saved by encouraging the use of products that are composed of recycled components, than it will cost the State of Montana (perhaps at a local level, but then it all comes out of <u>our</u> pockets one way or another, doesn't it...) in lost tax revenue by offering this incentive. Knowing that a business can save money using recycled products will give a business a further incentive to recycle, ensuring that there will be recycled products available to use.

If you would like any further information from a Montana business perspective, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this. Thank you for hearing my perspective on this sticky issue!

Best Regards,

Renee Sippel-Baker DANA DESIGN

EXHIBIT 10 B DATE 3/16/5 HB

Chairman Bob Gilbert Taxation Committee Montana House of Representatives Helena, MT

February 15, 1993

Dear Chairman Gilbert and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 519 which sets guidelines for recycled paper and other materials and supports their use by businesses across the state.

We currently use recycled paper in almost every application in our business, for office paper and advertising materials. We also recycle all paper, cardboard and glass which come through our office, reusing packing materials and boxes whenever possible.

However, recycling and reusing is not enough, and the government of Montana should set an example and actively encourage waste reduction. Recycling paper and cardboard is only the first step in the cycle, and unless every individual and business supports the next step, using recycled paper, the loop will not be closed.

Nationwide, consumers have shown an eagerness to do their part in reducing solid waste by returning recyclable materials, but **government must** help promote the extremely necessary next step, supporting the creation of a market for recycled materials.

I urge the Montana government to encourage the public sector to use recycled materials whenever possible, and to help the private sector by giving a tax break to those who set an example and use recycled materials.

Sincerely,

M. Kalul

Jennifer M. Kahrl President North Wind Designs, Inc.

> Mailing: Post Office Box 65 Bozeman, MT 5977

Studio:

NORTH

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WIND

INC.

517 East Aspen



Recycling for people who prefer the convenience of curb-side pick-up.

Jim Hassler • 1205 S. Willson • Bozeman, Montana 59715 Phone (406) 586-2351

February 15, 1993

Rep. Bob Gilbert, chair Taxation Committee Montana House of Representatives Helena, MT 59620

Dear Rep. Gilbert,

I am writing to you to express my support for H.B. 519 by Beverly Barnhart which would clarify the definition of recycled material eligible for a tax credit.

I own and operate Recycle-It, a curbside recycling service. We collect a variety of reclaimable materials from businesses and residences for recycling.

In clarifying the tax credit for businesses which creates a deduction for using recycled products, it would be a benefit to my business in an indirect fashion. It would be a benefit to our state directly. This bill would provide an incentive for businesses to use recycled products which contain post-consumer material. This would increase the demand for materials a business like Recycle-It collects, and subsequently promote waste reduction and keep more material from going to the landfills. As a resident of Montana I support this as well as a businessman.

Another benefit of this bill, which would be good for businesses and organizations across the state which collect recyclables is that it would help more people think about recycling and "do" recycling, both in buying products made with reclaimed materials and in collecting and sorting their recyclables.

This kind of consciousness raising would spin off in to more than just that for which they can get a deduction. It would encourage waste reduction and recycling.

I urge you to pass H.B. 519. Thank you.

Sincerely

Jim Hassler

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